

October 30, 2009

HOUSE PASSES FY 2010 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Includes Over \$2 Million for Restoration of Historic Lighthouses, Bayfield Courthouse

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) said today that the final Interior Appropriations bill for FY 2010, which passed the Congress, contains investments he requested for Douglas and Bayfield County. This includes \$2 million for historic lighthouse restoration and a \$150,000 Save America's Treasures grant for the restoration of the historic Bayfield Courthouse.

Obey secured \$2 million for continuation of historic lighthouse restoration efforts at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, which is home to one of the finest collections of 19th century lighthouses in the country. "We have a good opportunity to put more local people to work while repairing and restoring the lighthouses and the Bayfield Courthouse at the same time," Obey said.

This summer, Obey visited the Apostle Islands with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to review how the \$5 million in federal funding that he previously secured in FY 2009 would be used for restoration efforts at the Michigan and Outer Island lighthouses. These lighthouses are receiving extensive exterior and interior repairs and will be available in the future for self-guided tours. In addition, the Outer Island Lighthouse is scheduled for critical stabilization work and emergency repairs will be performed on the Devil's Island Fresnel Lens. Back in 2007, Obey secured \$1.3 million in federal funding that enabled the Park to restore the Raspberry Island lighthouse, which is now known as the 'Showplace of the Apostles.' The Park is estimated to generate more than 300 jobs in the local economy because of tourists who come to the Park and use local accommodations, restaurants and services.

The President is expected to sign the bill into law in the coming days.

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